

## Births and deaths in Chinnor 1622-1699

During this period no ages were included in the records making it difficult to assess infant and child mortality except by cross referencing with baptismal records and noting babies who died within one year of baptism.

### Analysis of deaths by decades

In the early 1600s it would appear that there were less than 10 burials a year the highest in one year being 16 and the lowest in 1630 3. 1641 and 1654, no burials recorded.

#### 1622-1632

In this segment the total number of burials recorded was: 85, m 43, f 42, and the average number of deaths per year was < 12. An exception was 1625 when 16 burials were recorded and 14 in 1628, the lowest number was 3 in 1630. As far as can be determined from cross reference to the baptism records which may not have been complete, the number of deaths < 1 year of age was 16.

Entries are annotated s or d but without ages it is unclear if these refer to infants, children or unmarried adults. See for example 1804 Mary Swains, age 16 d. Christopher. Some families were indicated by locations ie John of Chinnor.

In 1626, a vagrant was buried and in November 1627, it would appear that Elizabeth Britnell, wife of Bennett, and their son John, died within a few days of each other, which could suggest a death in childbirth although there is no record of John's baptism in the register.

In 1628 the Rector, Richard Winlow, died.

In 1631 is the first record of the Cooke family which also used the alias Johnson. Edmund Cooke alias Johnson, and 1640, Anna w. Edward Cooke alias Johnson, and in 1688 Pricilla Johnson alias Cooke w. James, see also August 1644 Cooke/Johnson.

**1642 saw the start of the civil war, and in June 1643, the Battle of Chalgrove and 17 June, Royalist raid on Chinnor<sup>1</sup>**

#### 1633-1643

During this period the number of burials was: total 64, m 29, f 35, average < 10 deaths per year with 1639, recording 12. The page for 1637 is blank and in 1638 only three burials were recorded. The number of deaths under 1yr is estimated to be 11

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<sup>1</sup> See index to Bodleian Library and Chinnor Public Library.

**Stevens.** During this period the Stevens family suffered a number of bereavements. John Stevens s. William (actually January 1633), and Elisabeth Stevens d. William buried in January, 1633.

In January, 1634 (35) Dorothy Stevens d of William.

In March 1634, Joanna Stevens of Chinnor.

In 1643 there was an outbreak of infection in Thame having been brought from the siege of Reading by the Parliamentary army. According to historical reference this was of an epidemic of a New Disease which has not been identified but Bell suggests it could have been mixture of conditions common to armies such as camp fever, dysentery, typhus or typhoid. Chinnor was put into lockdown with no contact with Thame after July, but the Stevens family of Chinnor High Street broke the ban.

Ref John Bell Chinnor archives.

In August 1643, Richard Stevens died and in September, John Stevens, Clement Stevens and Jeffery, s. of Clement, all died on and in Jan 1643 (44), Margaret Stevens d of Clement died..

Edward Sewel (Seywell) of Hill Farm buried June 2, burned to death trying to rescue farm deeds and papers. Ref John Bell on the civil war. Chinnor archives.

Although it was recorded that 50 roundhead soldiers were killed in the raid there is no record of their burial in the parish records. However, it would seem that they were not buried in the churchyard but just outside the churchyard wall and it may have been these soldiers who were found when the churchyard was extended in 1927 when skeletons and military accoutrements were dug up. Hill Chinnor Archives.

In September, 1644, Elizabeth Stevens d. of Clement died.

Also, in January 1643, John Basely s. of John and Anna d. of John were buried on the same day (not recorded in baptism register).

### **1649 beginning of the Commonwealth 1651 end of the civil war.**

#### **1644-1654 1654 smallpox out break in Oxford**

During this period a total of 71 burials took place: m 33, f 38, 2 were not named. Average number of burials per year was < 10 with a spike in 1647 of 14. The number of deaths under 1 year was 6.

Stevens family see above.

1645 and 1654 there is no record of any burials

August 13<sup>th</sup> 1644 one entry partly deleted shows Cooke blank s/d blank Cooke of Chinnor and immediately underneath Johnson, Katherine d. James of Chinnor. See previous entry 1631.

January 1 1647(48), Prudence King, d. Richard Baptised 24.12 46 buried January 1, and his wife (not named) buried January 3, died within two days of each by cross checking with the baptism records this might possibly be a death in childbirth.

In 1648 five women were buried without noting their Christian names: Avery, wife of John, Connys wife of Robert and two whose husbands' name is not recorded, (Marsh and Medes), and one son, surname Deane with no indication of family relationships.

1649 outbreak of smallpox in Oxford

1651 Two residents named Goodchild, Isabella a widow and Prudence d. of William died within a week of each other, it is not clear if they lived in the same household.

1651(52) March 24. Edward King s. of Laurence one of twins, brother Laurence appears to have survived.

1644, One unusual entry, Robert s. of Batty, Alien ie stranger to the village.

### **1655-1665**

### **1657-9, *influenza epidemic***

The total number of burials in this section was: 122, m 54, f 63, 1 adult not named. And the average per year varying widely between 1658, 24 and 1651, 4. Deaths < 1 year 19. Re check

1655, September 25, Abigail w. of John Shell and October 14, Abigail d. of John Shell baptised 17. 9 one of twins, died within three weeks of each other. The mother dying first, again, a possible death in childbirth. The other twin, Anne, appears to have survived.

1656 (57). In March, twin daughters of Henry Stevens were buried, names not recorded in either register, one day post baptism.

1657 In August and June respectively, Richard and Christopher Goodchild died their relationship is not clear.

1658 Among the 24 burials this year were a number of families who suffered multiple deaths. / Of particular note is when in September, Susanna, w. of Samuel Gibson, Rector died and 6 weeks later, in October, the Rector also died.

In addition to the residents a vagrant woman, un named, was buried and John Meade, identified as 'the blind man', was also buried.

In the baptism register 1658(9) is the entry beside Christopher Brookes, a daughter, gemini, baptised march 4<sup>th</sup>. referring to twins, it is possible that another baby was stillborn so not baptised, in addition, he lost two daughters, in 1658/9. Joan, baptised 25.8 57 and Alice baptised 24.1.55(56) 6 weeks apart in Dec/Jan. 1658/9.

1659 Thomas Surman lost his wife and daughter in June which, again, might be a death in childbirth. In February Ambrose Stevens lost his wife and new son within 10 days, no name was recorded on either baptism or burial register. An Ann Stevens is

also recorded in November but their relationship is not clear. Possibly living in the same household.

### ***1661-4 influenza epidemic***

1662 in January there is an entry for Henry Allen who was baptised and buried the next day. No notification in burial records

1662 Another instance of Johnson alias Cooke. This was Thomas senior in July.

In September 1662, Robert Howlett lost another daughter, Janna, having lost one, Ann, in July 1660 neither recorded in the baptism register.

1663 Thomas Surman lost 2 sons, Thomas and Henry although it is not clear if these were twins but they were baptised on the same day, 4 December, and buried on the same day 9 December.

**1665-1666 bubonic plague According to the burial records there does not seem to be any marked increase in burials during the plague year.**

**1665 total burials 11, 4m, 7f, and one baby less than 1 year old.**

### **1666-1676**

### **1675 influenza epidemic**

The total number of burials during this period was: total 118, m 51, f 66,

16 < 1 year

Average < 12 the highest number being in 1674 with 19 burials, and the lowest, 1666 with 6 recorded.

**Avery.** September, 1665, Elisabeth d. Christopher, baptised January 1660. December, Elizabeth widow,

February, (66), Janna d. of Christopher, baptised September 64..

May 1672 one unusual entry is of John Bigge 'of the mountains.'

**Gomm.** In 1674 3 members of the Gomm family died in February, Henry Gomm senior, Henry Gomm junior and Anna w. of Henry. Anna and Henry j were buried on the same day, Henry S. 10 days later.

**Stevens.** 1674, William Stevens s. Ambrose, baptised 1 February 1674, buried May 14, and in August, Ambrose Stevens.

### **1675 *influenza epidemic***

1675

**Young** 27 1675(76) January, Maria w. John Young, February 15, Katherina d. John.

1676 (77)

**Stacie.** Feb. Sarah w. William Stacie and 8 days later, William Stacie s. of Edward. ? husband and wife died in the same week.

### **1677-1687**

Burials during this section, total: 125, m 60, f 64, 27 < 1 year

The average being < 14 with two peaks of 20 in 1684, and 16 in 1685.

1677 Francis son of a vagrant

**Sharpe.** Over the next few years Thomas Sharpe lost his son Edward, baptised 23 February, 1676(7) buried, May 1677, daughter Anna in Aug. 1678, baptised June 1678, and son Richard in February, 1679 (80), baptised 5 Nov 1679.

### **1678-9 influenza epidemic**

In 1678 it was recorded that Thomas Surman senior was buried in 'woollen cloth'.

This would be to comply with an Act of Parliament 1678 which aimed at lessening the importation of linen from beyond the seas and the encouragement of the woollen and paper manufacture of the kingdom. The Act required that when a corpse was buried it should only be dressed in a shroud or garments made of wool. The exception being those that died of plague.

December 1681 Charles Goldfinch died age 32 and August 10, 1682 his son Charles was born and baptised on the same day May 11. Also recorded in May 1681, William Goldfinch s. Charles was baptised

**Costard.** July, 1681, Christopher Costard s. Timothy baptised in May buried in July.

1682 Christopher Costard s. Timothy in July, tentative proposal that this was a replacement baby.

July 1682, John Costard s. Richard, baptised 20 April buried 25 July.

Jan 1683 Christopher Costard s. Timothy baptised July 1682 buried January 1683 (4).

Another example of an alias in the burial records, Maria Goldfinch alias Ewster wife, of William Ewster.

### **1688 influenza epidemic**

See 1688, July, Richard Costard s. Timothy and Richard Costard senior.

September 1682, Clement Surman and in Oct., Elizabeth, d. Clement.

1683 There were 14 deaths, 2 from 1 family, and 4 from another family.

**Hearne.** Wife of Thomas Hearne senior and Francis Hearne son of Thomas of Oakley within one week in April, no name for the wife and no specific designation for Francis but a Francis Hearne, s. Thomas of Oakely, was baptised in April, 1682

Dec. Maria d. John and Feb. Sarah w. John.

**Seywell:** Lettice d. and Edmund s. Edward, Nathaniel and Simon ss. of John Seywell all buried in July. In 1684 Maria d. Edward buried in January.

**Stacie** Two members of the Stacie family were buried. In July, Maria d. Edward and in Dec. Daniel s. Edward. See 1676 Feb. William Stacie s. Edward.

### **1693                      *influenza epidemic***

#### **1688-1698**

Total number of burials during this period was: 136, m 69, f 67

Average < 12 with 30 deaths in 1688, and 16 in 1698. 24 < 1 year

**Costard.** Richard s. Timothy Costard see previous entry.

Thomas Johnson alias Cooke.

1688, Enoch and Rebecca s and d. of Richard Whitney baptised December 14, buried December 1688.

1690 June, Susanna w. Edward Stacie, Aug. Elizabeth d. Thomas Davis vagrant.

1692 Sarah Davis d. Thomas Davis vagrant, William Ward s. Henry Ward vagrant

1691, February, Richard Munger a vagrant.

#### **Jay**

1690, January, Maria Jay w. of the Rector Stephen Jay.

1692, March, Nelson Jay s. Charles Jay Rector, baptised July 28, 1692.

1695 February, Winifred Jay d. Charles Jay Rector, Baptised May 21, 1695

1697 April, Charles Jay s. Charles Jay Rector, baptised July 2 1696.

1698 17 deaths July, Charles Jay, Rector.

1695 Jana Bastian, d. Henry baptised after death, 26 October, not noted in the burial records

1697 Sarah Smith alias Beadan daughter of Richard baptised

1698 Anna Gomm d. William of Henton, baptised March 3, after death, not noted in burials records